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IS A MUNICIPAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT WANTED?

Views of Prominent Citizens.

ALMOST ALL AGAINST IT

Increased Burden of Taxation
Principal Argument Urged
Against Change.

For some time the asserted need of a municipal government for Honolulu has been argued. The Advertiser yesterday asked the views of a number of prominent citizens, all of whom are property owners and most of whom are heavily interested in Honolulu. The following interviews, brief as they are, speak for themselves and tell plainly the opposition to a municipal government at the present time:

ATHERTON OPPOSED.
J. B. Atherton was firmly opposed to transforming Honolulu into a municipality. The increased taxes, he said, would not be commensurate to the benefits which Honolulu as a city would receive. "No, sir, I don't think, as a business man and a taxpayer," said Mr. Atherton, "that a municipality is an absolute necessity. With the property assessments increased and a territorial and city tax added, the percentage would rise from one per cent to two and a half or three per cent."

NOT YET, SAYS HALL.
W. W. Hall has not given the subject much consideration, but he thought in time the necessity would arise for a municipality. "No," said he, "I don't think it is imperative just now to hasten the change, but say in a year or so. We ought to become adjusted to the conditions arising out of the change from a Republic to a Territory, and then think of municipal government. As to the matter of increased taxation? Well, taxes are increasing and the city valuations have gone up tremendously, according to the figures of the assessor. Taxable property which was worth probably \$10,000 or \$11,000 has been put up as high as \$20,000, and property which gives little or no revenue has taken the same course, but I don't think it could find a purchaser at the assessor's figures. However, I am of the opinion, even in the face of the increase of taxes, coming from territorial and municipal taxes, that we should have a municipal government. We want good streets and good sidewalks—there are many improvements which I could name. Under the present circumstances these we only get here and there, simply taking our chances on getting appropriations for such purposes. The municipal taxes would provide for these features, and Honolulu would become greatly improved. Yes, I favor a municipal government."

CARTER AGAINST IT.
George R. Carter, a prominent member of the Civic Federation movement, a large property owner and one who has many estate interests to look after, said: "Well, to tell the truth, when the proposition was first broached, I thought it was a foregone conclusion that Honolulu must by natural causes become a municipality. I thought the change of government made it a necessity. Since then, however, I have heard the matter discussed pro and con, and am now convinced that Honolulu need not become a municipality, at least for the present. The taxes will increase from about one per cent to three per cent, and the burden will fall upon the property owners to such an extent that the benefits to be derived from a municipal government will certainly be well paid for. There will be a city tax and a territorial tax, just as there is in any other Territory of the United States. There will be a large number of city officers to be paid, and money must be called in to pay their salaries. We have lost the custom house revenues by the change to a Territory, and that gap must be filled in some manner. I have changed my opinion very much in regard to this matter, and do not now favor the municipality movement. If we were along as well under the Territorial form as under the Republic, there is no reason why we should not pursue the even tenor of our way. The Legislature can provide for Honolulu's needs as in the past, and probably can do it as well as a city council would. Furthermore, there is the proposition of fixing the responsibility upon one man. One man is better than a dozen boards. There can be no jobbery. If there is, the responsibility is fixed upon that one man, and I don't believe the one man will abuse his power. He has not half the opportunity that a large number of officers and boards possess."

THE MAINLAND SUGAR MARKET
The Latest Prices—Doscher is Out of the Combination.

NEW YORK, July 11.—Sugar—Raw firm; fair refining, 4 3/4c; centrifugal, 35 test, 4 1/2c; molasses sugar, 4c.
NEW YORK, July 11.—The Tribune says: Wall street is interested in a report that Chas. E. Doscher has withdrawn from the National Sugar Refining Co. of New Jersey, of which he has been a director and a large stockholder, and has retired permanently from the sugar business. The report is accepted as true, although Mr. Doscher could not be found when an effort was made to secure a confirmation from him. One of his fellow directors was quoted, however, as declaring that Mr. Doscher's retirement was not the result of any disagreement in the board.

The National Sugar Refining Company of New Jersey was incorporated on June 2 at Trenton with \$20,000,000 capital, one-half being preferred stock and one-half common. It was a consolidation of three of so-called "Independent" companies—the National Sugar Refining Company, capitalized \$1,000,000 in stock, the Mollenhauer Sugar Refining Company, capitalized at \$1,000,000 and the New York Sugar Refining Company, with a capitalization of \$600,000 stock and \$2,400,000 bonds.

The National and Mollenhauer had all along been on friendly terms with the American Sugar Refining Company, while the New York, controlled by Mr. Doscher, had been a strenuous competitor of the trust. It was therefore taken by the street as an indication that the sugar war was over when the Doscher refinery was connected with the National and Mollenhauer, and in fact, the raising of the price of refined sugar, which has been going on rapidly during the last few weeks, began at just the time of the new company's organization, the trust announcing each advance and the Arbutkles and the new National company promptly making the new rate.

TENNEY SAYS NO.
E. D. Tenney was most emphatic in his stand against municipal government for Honolulu. He opposed the measure on account of the increased taxes, which would lift the property owner almost off his feet if additional percentages were laid against him. He referred to the municipality of San Francisco, which he said was almost driving the money men out of the State. In San Francisco, he said, he believed that railroad bonds were taxed by the municipality, which cut down personal revenues materially.

"Yes, sir, I am opposed to a municipal government for Honolulu, first, last and always," said Mr. Tenney, bringing his fist down upon his desk to forcibly explain his position on the subject. "Honolulu pays for what she has already, and she will have to pay for it always, but I don't believe we should be taxed for additional expenses when we can get along without that being done. The general improvements of the whole Territory will have to be participated in by the city as much as today, with the exception that we will be supporting an expensive list of city officials. Politicians will shout and say we must have a municipal government. On the contrary, I believe the business men, taxpayers and property owners will, after mature consideration, say that a municipality is not necessary, and they ought to be the ones whose opinion should be valued, for they have to pay the bills. You can say positively for me that I am against making Honolulu a municipality."

BOWEN DON'T LIKE IT.
W. A. Bowen said he was not a student of political economy and had not given the subject as much thought as it warranted. In some ways, he said, he had first thought a municipality would be the proper thing for Honolulu, but finally said that he was unalterably opposed to the proposition on account of the general increase of taxes, both city and territorial. "You can say for me that I do not favor the measure," said Mr. Bowen in conclusion.

THRUM NOT CERTAIN.
T. G. Thrum said he had not had an opportunity to give the subject proper thought since it was first brought to the public's attention, as he had been up to his ears in the work as Registrar of Conveyances and his private business. He was non-committal but promised to study the subject.

SOPER AND WATERHOUSE.
Colonel Soper was of the opinion that the question raised by the increased taxation was a sufficient argument against a municipality. On that ground he was firmly opposed to it. "I don't believe we should form a municipal government here," said the Colonel. "If the people of Hilo wish to become a municipality, let them have it. But for Honolulu I for one say 'No.' I don't think the time is ripe yet for it. We can afford to wait, especially in view of the additional expense we would be put to to maintain a city government."

FAVOR INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL TRAINING
Meeting of the Gen S. C. Armstrong Association Yesterday.

The General S. C. Armstrong Industrial Association held its annual meeting in the High School building yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. About thirty teachers were in attendance and exhibited so much enthusiasm in the work that it was decided to hold an additional meeting today at the same hour.

The work of the meeting consisted in the reading and adoption of the minutes of last year's meeting, and the hearing of reports from the various schools of the Islands relating to industrial school pursuits. Mr. Robert Low, the president, read reports upon the progress of the agricultural and manual training work during the year, and these will be printed and distributed to all the teachers in the Islands.

Considerable discussion was had over the subject matter of the reports and elicited the fact that the teachers were jubilant over the results. Most of the discussion concerned the report of Mr. Andrews of the Hauula school which was published in full in the Advertiser a short time since. This was considered the best report of all relating to agricultural work.

Certain reports expressed the discouragement resulting from lack of water, bad soil and other features which had prevented a successful year in the line of work mapped out. Others while temporarily discouraged at such failures, were determined to try again. One teacher reported having great success in teaching a large number of girls the art of cooking.

During the present session a large exhibit from the different schools of the Islands is open to the inspection of visitors. This exhibit consists of water-color work illustrating stories and lessons, mat and fan weaving, wood carving, and many other industrial displays. The Association will close its session at the close of today's meeting.

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EDITOR Y. SOGA PROPRIETOR C. SHIOZAWA

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